

THE 23 INFORMER

PA Area 60, District 23 P.O. Box 1698 Greensburg, PA 15601

www.aa-swestpa-dist23.org

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

DCM REPORT

To my fellow AA's:

First of all, we would like to thank you for the opportunity of serving as your representatives at NERAASA (Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly). There were a lot of informative panels, and I will try to hit some of the highlights of each. If I forget to mention any please forgive me; there was a lot going on over the weekend.

Before I go any further, I just want to thank Tom W. for toughing out it out with me through the horrible weather conditions on the way up there. It made for some interesting conversation and we got to discuss ways we could serve you better as trusted or twisted servants, whichever you prefer.

The first panel was already underway when we got there, but we got to hear about half of it, and the topic was, "AA Members and Other Drugs." The presenter from Area 44, which is New Jersey, did a fantastic job with her topic, "What is our primary purpose? Are we trying to be all things to all people?" The bottom line was yes, we are to try to help all those who suffer from alcoholism, but at the same time keep with our "singleness of purpose," which is alcohol. We need to ensure that A.A. remains A.A.

Our next three presenters talked about "Atheist/Agnostic: Is A.A. getting too religious versus spiritual?" Fred S. from Area 59 (Eastern PA) did a wonderful job talking about whether we need literature that focuses on spirituality and includes stories from atheists and agnostics who are sober in A.A. The main thing that was discussed after his presentation was: Don't we already have a whole chapter on agnostics in the big book, and if we do create a pamphlet for this, what else are we going to create one for next?

Afterwards we really had a good time discussing what "other things" we need pamphlets for. The end result was "Rule 62," we need not to take everything so seriously, and "Keep It Simple."

I am going to run out of time so I will only talk about one more panel and then talk about the NERAASA business meeting, which included 518 voting members. There were 187 first-time attendants, which is pretty awesome.

First, the panel was on "Website/Anonymity: How do we protect our anonymity on the Web?" The second and third presenters really caught my attention. The second presenter, Donald K., was from Area 50 in New York. He did a great job discussing whether the Internet was replacing face-to-face A.A. meetings. There were a lot of mixed feelings about this topic. Speaking for myself, I could see the benefit for those who can't get out to a meeting or those with special needs, but for anyone else there is nothing that can replace that face-to-face or eye-to-eye A.A. meeting.

The next presenter, Kathy S. from Area 29 in Maryland, also did a great job on her topic, which was "Posthumous Anonymity: Why is it important in our fellowship?" The thing that struck me the most is: What gives us the right as members to give up someone's anonymity in or out of the rooms just because he or she has passed away and we "think" that they wouldn't mind? This really made me think, and I now realize that I don't have the right to do that just because I think that they wouldn't have a problem with it. Also, respecting everyone's anonymity -- no matter what -- is an essential part of A.A. (*continued ...*)

Finally, the business meeting was very informative and long. We had three things on the agenda and after 1 hour and 45 minutes the first agenda item finally passed and we had to close the meeting; under NERAASA guidelines it was only supposed to be an hour and a half long. The end result was that the other two agenda items will carry over to next year.

The agenda item that did pass was to allow the Delegates to look over the NERAASA guidelines to see if they need to be revised and for them to bring back their decisions next year so that we could vote on them. This seems like it should have been an easy task, but remember, we are complicated people in a simple program.

One more thing and then I will shut up. All I have to say is good luck to our Delegates and I can't wait to see what happens next year.

Please remember that our district is hosting the hospitality room at the Getaway Weekend and that *we* can't do this without you, so please plan to attend March 26 to 28.

*In Love and Service,
DCM Chris G.,
Alt. DCM Tom W.*

ANSWERING SERVICE

Please mail contributions to: Answering Service – District 23, PO Box 1698, Greensburg, PA 15601. Please make them payable to “Answering Service, District 23” and put your group name on any checks.

TO ALL HOME GROUPS – If your group has any changes, please contact the Editor, and it will be listed in the Informer. Also please notify Richard K. of any changes so that the Answering Service and PI/CPC will give out correct meeting information. Contact numbers are on the front of this newsletter.

Please note that the Answering Service phone number has changed! We now have a toll-free number, thanks to your generous contributions. The number is listed on the front page of this newsletter. Pass it on!

GRAPEVINE

The AA Grapevine, our monthly meeting in print, is a very useful tool for your sobriety and can go wherever you go. A yearly subscription is only \$27, and it is delivered every month in a plain wrapper, so if your neighbors don't already know you're an alcoholic, your Grapevine magazine won't tip them off! The Grapevine is a perfect gift for sponsees and friends in the program. You can see me or your home group's Grapevine representative for subscription blanks. Thank you!

*Stan K.,
Grapevine Rep.*

PI/CPC

Hello District 23! PI/CPC continues its work of informing the public of AA's commitment to helping the still-suffering alcoholic in jails, institutions and elsewhere. We are carrying the message by dropping off literature at doctors' offices and elsewhere. Peace!

*Richard K.,
PI/CPC Rep.,
and Leo H.*

Editor's note ...

The deadline for submissions to the 23 Informer is 12 pm the Sunday before each GSR meeting. Submissions received after the deadline are not guaranteed inclusion in the newsletter. Thank you for your consideration.

**Sally B.
Editor, 23 Informer**